

REMARKS

This responds to the non-final Office Action outstanding against this application. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 19 – 22 are pending in the application. Claims 19 and 20 were previously presented. Claims 21 and 22 are new.

Claims 19 and 20

Claims 19 and 20 were previously allowed, but the examiner has withdrawn the allowance and rejected claims 19 and 20 under 35 USC 103 based upon Ess (US-4,392,401) in view of Blaimschein (US-5,137,399). The applicant traverses this rejection.

The Examiner acknowledges that Ess “doesn’t show at least a pickup element is movable relative to the movable device in both first and second directions when the pickup element is in the gripping position.” The Examiner relies upon pickup elements 11 (11a,11b) shown in FIGS. 2 – 3 of Blaimschein and states that Blaimschein teaches pickup elements 11 that are movable relative to the movable device in both first and second directions when the pickup elements are in the gripping position.

It is important to note that Blaimschein is not a sawing machine, and does not disclose any gripping elements that correspond to those recited in the present claims. Blaimschein is a “center working machine” in which a vacuum is used to hold the workpiece against a support table 4. The elements 11 are “holding-down fingers” that further press the workpiece W against the table 4 -- the elements 11 do not grip the workpiece and are never moved while gripping a workpiece, because they only press down against the workpiece W.

It is clear at col. 3, line 45 – col. 4, line 14, of Blaimschein that the fingers 11a,11b of Blaimschein are moved only when they are released from the workpiece. FIG. 3 and the associated text of Blaimschein disclose that the element 11b is not engaged with the workpiece W when the element 11b is retracted.

In contrast, the Examiner is urged to consider FIGS. 6a – 6f of the present application, where it can be seen that the pickup element 16a moves back and forth relative to the movable device 6 ***while the pickup element 16a is gripping the panel 3b to shift the position of the panel 3b in first and second opposite directions relative to the movable device 6 and relative to the saw 7 and support table on which the panel 3b is supported.*** In this way, each single cut of the saw 7 can be used to obtain pieces 40,41 of different sizes as the panels 3a,3b are fed to the saw by means of the movable device 6.

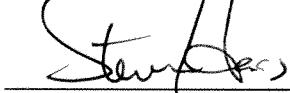
New Claims 21 and 22

New claims 21 and 22 correspond exactly to claims 19 and 20, respectively, except that claim 21 includes the additional limitation at the end: “ . . .in order to move the associated wood panels being gripped by the first pickup element relative to the support surface and relative to the movable device.” This additional limitation is provided to further distinguish over Ess in view of Blaimschein for the reasons noted above.

Conclusion

This application meets all statutory requirements. A Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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